

Pied Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax varius*. The only cormorant sighted during our stay. It appears to be very common on the rocks, and off-shore islands.

Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*. The most common wader observed on all days on the island, observed on both rocky and sandy coastline.

Variiegated Wren, *Malurus lamberti*. Appears to be common on all parts of the island visited. A number of brightly coloured males were observed.

Singing Honeyeater, *Meliphaga virescens*. Several birds sighted during our stay, and appears to be a common species.

Reef Heron, *Egretta sacra*. One bird sighted (grey phrase) on off-shore island just south of Redcliff Point.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus*. One bird sighted on foreshore south of Redcliff Point.

Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*. One bird sighted on the foreshore south of Redcliff Point.

Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*. Several birds sighted flying a short distance out to sea from our camp on most days.

Red-capped Dotterel, *Charadrius ruficapillus*. Appeared to be a common bird on the foreshore, several parties of birds observed on all days.

Field Wren, *Calamanthus fuliginosus*. This bird was observed on all days, heard calling on numerous occasions and would appear to be a common species, although it keeps well hidden in the small scrub.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCE

MEES, G. F. Birds of Bernier and Dorre Island, 1962, *Fauna Bulletin No. 2 Fisheries and Fauna Department*.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Chestnut-breasted Finch, *Lonchura castaneothorax*, at Osborne Park.— During the last few years the Chestnut-breasted Finch has been sighted at Osborne Park, usually feeding on the seeds of Winter Grass (*Poa annua*) growing in a patch of cultivated tomatoes near the edge of a sedge covered swamp. The garden is irrigated summer and winter.

In August 1973 I saw six birds, and again in September 1975 when I counted 40 individuals, which remained in the area until the beginning of December. In July 1976, a similar sized flock was seen in my area.

On July 3, 1977, 18 birds were counted feeding in a fairly tight group on green Winter Grass seeds growing thick amongst the tomato plants. When these finches were flushed off the ground they flew short distances before landing on the tomato stakes, and then one by one would alight on the ground to continue feeding. An adult male specimen with small gonads was collected on this day, now in the Western Australian Museum. (Registered number A15099).

On July 7, 1977, only seven birds were counted. As I watched this small group feeding, I noticed a large male feral cat stalking the finches only a metre or two from the unwary birds. This species has recently been recorded at Herdsman's Lake, about 2 km south of my locality.

Presumably these birds comprise a breeding flock of escapees from local aviaries.

—NICHOLAS KOLICHIS, Osborne Park.